



Tuesday, March 15, 2016

House Budget & Research Office  
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- The House will reconvene for its 38th Legislative Day on Wednesday, March 16 at 10:00 a.m.
- The Rules committee will meet at 9:00 a.m.
- 8 bills / resolutions are expected to be debated on the floor.

## Today on the Floor

### Rules Calendar

#### **SB 193 Crimes and Offenses; family violence battery; change penalty provisions**

**Bill Summary:** SB 193 changes provisions of the Georgia Code relating to battery in the context of family violence. When a battery is committed between household members, and the perpetrator has previously been convicted of a separate forcible felony between household members in Georgia, or any other state, he or she will be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than five years.

**Authored By:** Sen. Charlie Bethel (54th)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-09-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 170 Nays: 2

**Amendments:**

#### **SB 206 Counties and Municipal Corporations; revise provisions relating to water liens; procedures**

**Bill Summary:** The legislation revises provisions relating to the prohibition of a water supplier's option to disconnect water service to premises because of the indebtedness of a prior owner, occupant, or lessee. The bill provides a procedure to obtain information regarding moneys owed for water supplied to certain real property under certain circumstances. SB 206 exempts any property from the refusal to supply water because of the indebtedness of the prior occupant. A new section is added to current law setting forth that any property owner or tenant, person executing a contract for the purchase or occupancy of property, attorney closing a real estate transaction, or lender considering the loan of funds to be secured by real property shall have the right to request a statement from the water supplier setting forth the amount of any outstanding water charges along with any late fees with interest. Such a request must be: made in writing, state the address of the property, and delivered to the billing address of the water supplier by certified mail, return receipt, courier service, or electronic means if supported by the provider, as well as state a return address for payment of moneys owed. Requests made via electronic communication are presumed to be received the following business day. The water supplier must furnish back to the entity making the request a statement using the same mailing methods and may charge a fee not to exceed \$10.00 for the requested information. Failure of the water supplier to provide the statement within 10 business days after receipt will extinguish any liens or unpaid charges and prevent the water supplier from denying water services to the new property owner or tenant. The statement furnished by the water supplier will be binding upon the supplier for 30 days; and, if full payment is tendered within the 30day period, any lien will be extinguished by operation of law. Additionally, there is a provision that exempts associations that supply water under certain conditions.

**Authored By:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-10-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 170 Nays: 0

**Amendments:**

**SB 263 Law Enforcement Officers; provide governing authority; employs sworn police officers who are P.O.S.T certified; policies; disability in line of duty**

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 263 allows for the governing authority of each municipality and county in this state, as well as each board of education, which employs sworn police officer who are POST certified to adopt policies under which officers may retain their weapon or badge upon retirement or leaving employment as a result of a disability arising in the line of duty.

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| <b>Authored By:</b>     | Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)        | <b>Rule Applied:</b>     | Modified-Structured |
| <b>House Committee:</b> | Public Safety & Homeland Security | <b>Committee Action:</b> | 03-08-2016 Do Pass  |
| <b>Floor Vote:</b>      | Yeas: 123 Nays: 46                | <b>Amendments:</b>       |                     |

**SB 269 Counties; require local governing bodies; provide certain entities with certification of compliance with Code section; condition of funding**

**Bill Summary:** SB 269 requires local governments to submit proof of compliance and a certification pursuant to the Annual Immigration Compliance Report before funding is received from state agencies. Furthermore, it makes certification of compliance a requirement of the annual 'Immigration Compliance Act'.

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| <b>Authored By:</b>     | Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd) | <b>Rule Applied:</b>     | Modified-Structured |
| <b>House Committee:</b> | Judiciary               | <b>Committee Action:</b> | 03-10-2016 Do Pass  |
| <b>Floor Vote:</b>      | Yeas: 118 Nays: 52      | <b>Amendments:</b>       |                     |

**SB 335 Retirement; permissible investments in commingled funds and collective investment funds; revise provisions**

**Bill Summary:** HB 335 amends O.C.G.A. 47-20-83 relating to Public Retirement Systems Investment Authority law. This bill allows retirement systems to invest in commingled and collective investment funds maintained by state chartered banks or trust companies. Currently, retirement systems can only invest in commingled and collective investment funds that are regulated by the Office of Comptroller of the Currency of the United States Department of the Treasury. This bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

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|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Authored By:</b>     | Sen. Ellis Black (8th) | <b>Rule Applied:</b>     | Modified-Open      |
| <b>House Committee:</b> | Retirement             | <b>Committee Action:</b> | 03-09-2016 Do Pass |
| <b>Floor Vote:</b>      | Yeas: 167 Nays: 1      | <b>Amendments:</b>       |                    |

**SB 336 Retirement; permit governing bodies of municipal corporations to enact plans by resolution in addition to ordinance**

**Bill Summary:** SB 336 amends O.C.G.A. 47-5-40 relating to the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System. This bill allows each employer to establish a retirement plan or plans by resolution of the municipal corporation. Currently, a retirement plan or plans can only be enacted by ordinance of the governing body of a municipal corporation. This bill also adds that an employee's contribution under a defined benefit plan shall not exceed 50 percent of the value of such employee's benefit payable from the plan, except with respect to any employee contribution made to purchase additional creditable service. SB 336 also amends O.C.G.A. 47-5-41 relating to the establishment and use of master plans under the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System. It allows the board of trustees to establish one or more master plans for retirement plans with greater than 16 employees. Current law only allows master plans be developed for retirement plans with fewer than 16 employees. Also, this bill adds that an employee's contribution into a master plan shall not exceed 50 percent of the value of such employee's benefit payable from the plan, except with respect to any employee contribution made to purchase additional creditable service. This bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

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| <b>Authored By:</b>     | Sen. Ellis Black (8th) | <b>Rule Applied:</b>     | Modified-Open      |
| <b>House Committee:</b> | Retirement             | <b>Committee Action:</b> | 03-09-2016 Do Pass |
| <b>Floor Vote:</b>      | Yeas: 163 Nays: 6      | <b>Amendments:</b>       |                    |

**SB 364 "Quality Basic Education Act"; annual teacher, principal, and assistant principal evaluations; revise provisions**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 364 revises the annual performance evaluation for public school teachers and leaders. Student growth will now account for 30 percent of the evaluation, down from the original 50 percent. A professional growth component will account for 20 percent. The number of in-class observations are reduced for teachers with at least three years of teaching experience who have earned 'Proficient' or 'Exemplary' on the previous evaluation.

Senate Bill 364 also reduces the amount of state mandated testing required. Currently, there are 32 state mandated tests in grades K-12. This legislation reduces the number of state mandated test to 24 by removing social studies and science tests in grades 3, 4, 6, and 7. This bill also adds formative testing in grades 1 and 2 to assess reading and math development.

**Authored By:** Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)  
**House Committee:** Education

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-11-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 172 Nays: 0

**Amendments:**

**SB 402 Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Programs; provide for a moratorium on the issuance of new licenses to narcotic treatment programs**

Bill Summary: SB 402 imposes a temporary moratorium on the acceptance of new applications for licensure of narcotic treatment programs in Georgia until June 30, 2017. Moreover, the bill creates the State Commission on Narcotic Treatment Programs, which is comprised of three members of the House appointed by the Speaker of the House, three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, and five members appointed by the Governor. The Commission is tasked with studying multiple aspects of current narcotic treatment programs in Georgia, and to determine if legislative changes need to be made to licensure requirements of said treatment programs, or if any other changes to the law are required to address concerns that arise out of the Commission's study.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
**House Committee:** Regulated Industries

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-10-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

**Amendments:**

**SR 558 General Assembly; proceeds of excise taxes on sale of fireworks; funding of trauma care -CA**

Bill Summary: SR 558 is a constitutional amendment to provide that the existing excise tax on fireworks shall be specifically dedicated to the provision of trauma care, fire services, and local public safety purposes. SR 558 is accompanied by SB 350, the enabling legislation, which allocates revenues collected.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-10-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 169 Nays: 2

**Amendments:**

**SR 730 Coastal Regional Commission; encourage to support implementation of the Coastal Georgia Greenway**

Bill Summary: SR 730 encourages the Coastal Regional Commission to create a comprehensive plan for and oversee the implementation of the Coastal Georgia Greenway and to create and file an annual report with the General Assembly detailing its progress. The resolution also encourages the General Assembly, state governmental authorities, the Coastal Georgia Commission, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Natural Resources to identify and utilize all available sources of funding.

**Authored By:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)  
**House Committee:** Natural Resources & Environment

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-10-2016 Do Pass

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 149 Nays: 18

**Amendments:**

## Postponed Until Next Legislative Day

### **HB 1131 Atlanta, City of; levy a retail sales and use tax**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the levy of retail sales and use tax by the City of Atlanta for the purpose of providing public transportation of passengers for hire in the metropolitan area of the City of Atlanta.

**Authored By:** Rep. Pat Gardner (57th)

**Rule Applied:**

### **SB 331 Courts; causing a child to be conceived; violating certain prohibitions relating certain offenses; additional ground for terminating parental rights**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 331 allows the termination of a father's parental rights when, by clear and convincing evidence, the father caused his child to be conceived as a result of non-consensual sexual contact. For purposes of legitimation proceedings, there shall be a presumption against legitimation where the court finds that the father caused his child to be conceived in such a manner. Such fathers shall also be barred from inheriting from a child so conceived; however, a child conceived as a result on non-consensual sex may still inherit from the father.

**Authored By:** Sen. Bruce Thompson (14th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

### **SB 343 Decatur, City of; provide for homestead exemption; independent school district; educational purposes**

Bill Summary: This bill provides a homestead exemption from City of Decatur independent school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes for five years in the full amount of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that school district who are 65 years of age or older.

**Authored By:** Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)

**Rule Applied:**

### **SR 954 Public Property; granting of nonexclusive easements for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities, utilities, roads; 16 counties**

Bill Summary: SR 954 authorizes the granting of nonexclusive easements for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities, utilities, roads, and ingress and egress in, on, over, under, upon, across, or through property owned by the State of Georgia in the counties of Bartow, Bulloch, Carroll, Chatham, Columbia, Coweta, DeKalb, Emanuel, Gordon, Henry, Marion, Murray, Paulding, Sumter, Ware, and Whitfield.

Article 1 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 1.7 acres under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the new Natural Resources Building (TCSG-269) at Ogeechee Technical College in Bulloch County for \$10.

Article 2 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 3.256 acres under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve structures at University of Georgia at the Wormsloe Historic Site in Chatham County for \$10.

Article 3 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 0.1 of an acre under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve an outdoor electronic sign at Augusta Technical College in Columbia County for \$10.

Article 4 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 0.04 of an acre under the custody of the Georgia Department of Defense for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the new facilities at Decatur Armory in Dekalb County for \$10.

Article 5 grants an easement to Excelsior Electrical Membership Corporation and assigns over approximately 0.16 of an acre under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of distribution lines and associated equipment to serve new Group Shelters at George L. Smith State Park in Emanuel County for \$10.

Article 6 grants an easement to the Georgia Department of Transportation and assigns over approximately 0.12 of an acre over Western and Atlantic Railroad property under the custody of the State Properties Commission for a road widening project and the construction and maintenance of a bridge on the South Calhoun Bypass from SR53 at CR13 East to SR53 at CR64 in Gordon County for \$10.

Article 7 grants an easement to Snapping Shoals Electrical Membership Corporation and assigns over approximately 1.51 acres under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve the new Henry County Campus (TCSG-248) of Southern Crescent Technical College for \$10.

Article 8 grants an easement to Flint Electrical Membership Corporation (Flint Energies) and assigns over approximately 0.03 of an acre under the custody of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve a new building at Chattahoochee Fall Line Wildlife Management Area in Marion County for \$10.

Article 9 grants an easement to the Georgia Department of Transportation and assigns over approximately 0.25 of an acre under the custody of the Technical College System of Georgia for the construction of storm water drainage system and road improvement project at South Georgia Technical College in Sumter County for \$7,000.

Article 10 grants an easement to Georgia Power Company and assigns over approximately 0.3 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of underground distribution lines and associated equipment to serve six new cabins at Laura S. Walker State Park in Ware County for \$10.

Article 11 grants an easement to Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC (Sabal) and assigns over approximately 0.03 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment and facilities under navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Brooks, Colquitt, Dougherty, Lowndes, and Stewart Counties for fair market value but not less than \$650.

Article 12 grants the following easements:

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.69 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Bartow County for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.33 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Carroll and Coweta Counties for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.22 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and

over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Gordon County for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 0.26 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Murray County for fair market value but not less than \$650;

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) and assigns over approximately 1.1 of an acre under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Murray and Whitefield Counties for fair market value but not less than \$650; and

An easement to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (Transco) or its successors and assigns over approximately 10.47 acres under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline, associated equipment under and over land and navigable waters of the State of Georgia in Paulding County for fair market value but not less than \$650.

**Authored By:** Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

## Local Calendar

### HB 1137 Haralson County; tax commissioner; modify compensation

**Bill Summary:** A Bill to amend an Act consolidating the office of Tax Receiver and Tax Collector of Haralson County into the office of Tax Commissioner, so as to modify the compensation of the tax commissioner.

**Authored By:** Rep. Kevin Cooke (18th)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 167 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**

**Committee Action:** 03-14-2016 Do Pass

**Amendments:**

### HB 1138 Haralson County; ad valorem tax; provide homestead exemption

**Bill Summary:** A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from Haralson County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in the amount of \$4,000 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that county who are 65 years of age or older and whose income, together with the income of the spouse of such resident who resides within such homestead and excluding certain retirement income, does not exceed \$10,000.

**Authored By:** Rep. Kevin Cooke (18th)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 167 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**

**Committee Action:** 03-14-2016 Do Pass

**Amendments:**

### HB 1139 Fairmount, City of; corporate limits; change

**Bill Summary:** A Bill to repeal and replace the Charter of the City of Fairmount, so as to change the corporate limits of the city by annexing certain territory to the city.

**Authored By:** Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)

**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 167 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**

**Committee Action:** 03-14-2016 Do Pass

**Amendments:**

## **Next on the Floor from the Committee on Rules**

*The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 38th Legislative Day, Wednesday, March 16, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Rules Committee will next meet on Wednesday, March 16, at 9:00 a.m., to set the Rules Calendar for the 39th Legislative Day.*

### **HR 1253 Local boards of education; instruction on dugout safety to youth athletes participating in baseball; encourage**

Bill Summary: House Resolution 1253 encourages local athletic entities to render instruction on dugout safety to youth athletes participating in the sport of baseball and to construct protective dugout coverings.

**Authored By:** Rep. Dexter Sharper (177th)  
**House Committee:** Education

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-09-2016 Do Pass

### **HR 1342 Education; school children; request more recess time**

Bill Summary: House Resolution 1342 requests more recess time for school children.

**Authored By:** Rep. Demetrius Douglas (78th)  
**House Committee:** Education

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-09-2016 Do Pass

### **HR 1343 United States Environmental Protection Agency; withdraw the proposed Waters of the United States Clean Water Plan rule; encourage**

Bill Summary: HR 1343 encourages the United States Environmental Protection Agency to immediately withdraw the proposed Waters of the United States Clean Water Plan rule, supports the comments on the Clean Water Plan rule submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency by the State of Georgia, urges Congress and the President to enact legislation to prohibit the Clean Water Plan rule from taking effect unless and until any and all legal challenges to the Clean Water Plan rule have been fully resolved and no appeals remain, and supports the Joint Resolution resolved by Congress on January 4, 2016: "That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to 'Clean Water Rule: Definition of 'Waters of the United States' (80 Fed. Reg. 37054; June 29, 2015), and such rule shall have no force or effect."

**Authored By:** Rep. Tom McCall (33rd)  
**House Committee:** Natural Resources & Environment

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-10-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### **HR 1382 Community Health, Department of; create and seek the counsel of a State Health Benefit Plan Customer Advisory Council; encourage**

Bill Summary: HR 1382 encourages the Department of Community Health to create and seek the counsel of a State Health Benefit Plan Customer Advisory Council.

**Authored By:** Rep. Debbie Buckner (137th)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-10-2016 Do Pass

### **SB 208 Stonecrest, City of; provide for a charter**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 208 authorizes a referendum to create the city of Stonecrest in DeKalb County, Georgia.

**Authored By:** Sen. Ronald Ramsey, Sr. (43rd)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-09-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 243 Georgia Judicial Retirement System; preservation of rights by certain persons; change certain provisions**

Bill Summary: SB 243 amends O.C.G.A. 47-23-43, 47-23-43.1, and 47-23-100 relating to membership in the Georgia Judicial Retirement System (JRS). This bill allows any full-time employee serving as legislative counsel, with admission into the State Bar of Georgia, to make an irrevocable decision to become a member of JRS. Eligible individuals wishing to become a member of the JRS must notify the board no later than December 31, 2016 or within 90 days of employment, whichever date is later. The Employee's Retirement System (ERS) would then be required to transfer all employee and employer contributions, plus interest, to JRS. Also, members would receive creditable service for actual years of service as a member of ERS. This bill has been certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a fiscal retirement bill.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jack Hill (4th)  
**House Committee:** Retirement

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 02-03-2016 Do Pass

**SR 1027 Joint Music Economic Development Study Committee; create**

Bill Summary: Senate Resolution 1027 creates the Joint Music Economic Development Study Committee to examine issues relating to the music industry and possible ways to develop it further.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
**House Committee:** Special Rules

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-09-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SR 1038 Joint Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Study Committee; create**

Bill Summary: Senate Resolution 1038 creates the Joint Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Study Committee to examine ways infrastructure can be increased to support alternative fuel vehicles around the state.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
**House Committee:** Special Rules

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-09-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute



## Committee Actions

*Bills passing committees are reported to the Clerk's Office and are placed on the General Calendar.*

### Economic Development & Tourism Committee

#### **SB 417 'Georgia Film and Television Trail Act'; create; provide definitions; purpose**

Bill Summary: Amends Chapter 7 of Title 50 relating to the Department of Economic Development, so as to create the "Georgia Film and Television Trail Act." This bill enables the Department of Economic Development to plan and develop a trail of balanced locations throughout the state, which shall be planned, constructed and maintained on a long term basis. Local government and private entities will be allowed and encouraged to provide for the development and maintenance of the trail as well as trail signs. The bill provides property owners of portions of the trail immunity for acts of others that occur on the trail, but other forms of premises liability are not immunized. The Department of Economic Development is authorized to adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out this article.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)

**House Committee:** Economic Development & Tourism **Committee Action:**

03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### Education Committee

#### **SB 310 "Transparency in Education Act"; prohibit implementation of certain grants; written analysis; grant terms are ratified by Gen. Assembly**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 310 requires any department, agency, or official of the state applying for a competitive grant over \$20 million effecting K-12 education to send a written analysis to all members of the Senate Education and Youth Committee and the House Committee on Education 30 days before submitting the application. The analysis should include long-term projections of unfunded costs, impact on state and local education policy, the purpose and effect of the grant program, all compliance mandates and policy directives associated with the grant, and any laws which need to be passed or rescinded to comply.

**Authored By:** Sen. William Ligon, Jr. (3rd)

**House Committee:** Education **Committee Action:**

03-15-2016 Do Pass

### Governmental Affairs Committee

#### **SB 85 Development Authorities; revise the definition of projects as applicable; modify the tax exemption**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 85 provides that an individual appointed to state and local authorities, boards, councils, and commissions shall be a United States citizen, or a natural or lawful permanent resident.

**Authored By:** Sen. Brandon Beach (21st)

**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs **Committee Action:**

03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

#### **SB 145 Board of Community Health; provide that one member of the board is member of the state health benefit plan**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 145 allows for manufacturers of low tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) oil to ship low THC oil to a person properly registered with the Department of Public Health in Georgia. Senate Bill 145 expands the list of conditions for which low THC oil can be administered by including autism, epidermolysis bullosa, HIV, peripheral neuropathy, tourette's syndrome, terminal

illness, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Finally, the bill would allow nonprofit institutions of higher learning and nonprofit research institutions in Georgia to perform clinical trials with the oil.

**Authored By:** Sen. Joshua McKoon (29th)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 199 Elections; provide for a definition; prohibit certain activities within close proximity to polling places**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 199 establishes a definition for "campaign material" and prevents it from being distributed or displayed within the area of a voting precinct restricted from campaigning activities. Campaign material is defined as any newspaper, booklet, pamphlet, card, sign, paraphernalia, or any other written or printed matter referring to a candidate whose name appears on the ballot in a primary or election; a referendum which appears on the ballot in a primary or election; or a political party or body which has a nominee or nominees on the ballot in a primary or election.

**Authored By:** Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 323 State Printing and Documents; public disclosure not be required for any documents pertaining to economic development project**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 323 expands the provision in the code that allows the Department of Economic Development to not publically disclose the details of an economic development project to all state agencies.

**Authored By:** Sen. Mike Dugan (30th)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass

## Higher Education Committee

**SB 18 Technical College System of Georgia; establish policies for granting academic credit for college level learning from military service, work experience**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 18 requires the Technical College System of Georgia to establish policies for granting academic credit to active duty military or veteran students for college-level learning acquired prior to their enrollment from military service. Training and experience from military service must be substantially related to the coursework credit given by the Technical College System of Georgia.

**Authored By:** Sen. Ed Harbison (15th)  
**House Committee:** Higher Education

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

**HB 1080 Fayette County; Magistrate Court; impose and collect county law library fees as part of court cost**

Bill Summary: A Bill to impose and collect county law library fees as part of the court costs in the magistrate court.

**Authored By:** Rep. Matt Ramsey (72nd)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass

**HB 1143 Cherokee County; provide for the employment of marshals**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the employment, qualifications, and powers of marshals by Cherokee County.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mandi Ballinger (23rd)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass

#### **HB 1145 Troup County; State Court; judge and solicitor-general; change salaries**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the State Court of Troup County, so as to change the salaries of the judge of the state court and the solicitor-general of the state court.

**Authored By:** Rep. Randy Nix (69th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass

#### **HB 1146 DeKalb County; provide regulation of land use; provisions**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act revising, superseding, and consolidating the laws relating to the governing authority of DeKalb County and creating a chairman and board of commissioners of said county, so as to provide for the regulation of land use.

**Authored By:** Rep. Dar'shun Kendrick (93rd)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass

#### **HB 1147 Byron Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority; staff; revise provisions**

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to create the Byron Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority, so as to revise the provisions regarding staff of the authority.

**Authored By:** Rep. Robert Dickey (140th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass

#### **SB 377 "Newton County Community Improvement District Act"; provide for purpose; definitions; board to administer such district or districts**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide for the creation of one or more community improvement districts in Newton County.

**Authored By:** Sen. Rick Jeffares (17th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass as Amended

#### **SB 421 DeKalb County Charter Review Commission; create; membership; purpose**

Bill Summary: A Bill to create the DeKalb County Charter Review Commission.

**Authored By:** Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

#### **SB 425 Ringgold, City of; modify compensation and expenses; selection of mayor; memberships of boards, commissions, and authorities**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Ringgold.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass

## Judiciary Committee

### **SB 255 Garnishment Proceedings; modernize, reorganize, and provide constitutional protections**

Bill Summary: SB 255 repeals current text of Title 18, Chapter 4 relating to garnishment proceedings and enacts an entirely new chapter outlining procedures and deadlines to be followed and forms to be used in conducting garnishment proceedings, so as to modernize, reorganize, and provide constitutional protections in garnishment proceedings. The bill provides definitions and the procedure for garnishment including procedures only applicable to financial institutions. The bill requires judgment debtors to be notified that there are certain exemptions under state and federal law which the debtor may be entitled to claim with respect to the garnished property and procedures to claim such exemptions. The bill stipulates that the garnishment period, the time in which the garnishee shall freeze funds to be submitted to the court with the garnishee's answer, shall begin on the day of service of the summons of garnishment and, for: (1) A continuing garnishment, shall include the next 179 days; (2) Garnishments, other than a continuing garnishment or continuing garnishment for support, served on a financial institution, shall include the next five days; (3) A continuing garnishment for support, shall remain for so long as the defendant is employed by the garnishee and shall not terminate until the original arrearage is retired; and (4) All other garnishments, shall include the next 29 days.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jesse Stone (23rd)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### **SB 345 Corporations, Partnership, and Associations; provide for the policy of state determining property rights of religious organizations**

Bill Summary: This bill urges Georgia courts to apply the neutral principals test as the method by which the courts shall resolve cases involving the property rights of religious organizations. The relevant factors examined under the neutral principles test, when determining the property rights of religious organizations, include, but are not limited to: the legal instruments conveying the property, the corporate or organizational documents of the title owner, and the property rules of ecclesiastical entities.

**Authored By:** Sen. Hunter Hill (6th)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

### **SB 270 Firearms; authorize qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry handgun anywhere within this state**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 270 provides penalty for a person who commits the offense of transmitting a false public alarm when he or she knowingly transmits a report or warning while knowing at the time there is no reasonable ground for believing the report when the report relates to a destructive device or hazardous substance; or an individual who has caused or threatened to cause physical harm to himself or someone else. The penalty for this violation would be a misdemeanor on the first offense and felony upon the second, unless the location of the violation is critical infrastructure in which case the person is guilty of a felony. The bill includes several other provisions which clean up the firearms Code in Title 16. The bill provides for new Georgia residents who have a carry license issued by a state which recognizes Georgia licenses to have 90 days in order to get their Georgia license. The bill states that persons who have a valid hunting or fishing license are not required to have on their person a carry license when they are engaged in legal hunting, fishing, or sport shooting on recreational or wildlife management areas owned by the state. This legislation allows a person who leaves a place of worship upon notification that firearms are prohibited to avoid being cited as violating the Code. The bill also allows probate judges receiving applications for permits, to issue printed information on firearms safety courses. The bill also goes on to require the Department of Natural Resources to provide on their principal website, information on hunter education and classes and courses in this state that render gun safety instruction. Another

provision of the bill adds to the exemption for retired law enforcement carry privileges to include officers who are citizens of this state and have an aggregate of ten years in law enforcement with arrest powers, separated from service in good standing, and have an identification card for retired law enforcement. The bill clarifies definitions for "commercial service airport" and "major airline carrier" as it applies to those who carry a weapon into a commercial airport. Finally, the legislation provides immunity from civil liability from injuries caused by the failure of a person to use a firearm properly or lawfully to those instructors who provide safety training.

**Authored By:** Sen. P. K. Martin (9th)  
**House Committee:** Public Safety & Homeland Security  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 320 Driver's License; revise exemptions afforded to nonresidents issued to them in in home state/country**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 320 revises the existing exemptions afforded to nonresidents possessing a valid driver's license issued by their home state or country. This bill also provides alternative options for accepting validity of a driver's license issued by a foreign country as well as exceptions. Drivers with a license issued by a foreign country would not be required to have an international driver's license to drive through Georgia and would allow law enforcement to consult the person's passport or visa to verify validity. The legislation also amends Title 40 relating to regulation of carriers and requires taxi services operating in this state to register with the Department of Public Safety and renew a license for operation annually. They must maintain a current list of all drivers utilized by the service. Such lists would not be subject to open records request. Taxi services would be responsible for making sure each driver has proper permits or licenses required federally or by this state as well as their for-hire license endorsement. They must also employ a zero tolerance drug and alcohol policy and maintain personal injury and property damage liability insurance. Finally this bill removes the requirement for the individual driver to provide proof of liability coverage in order to be eligible for a for-hire license endorsement. The final provision of the bill states that anyone found to have violated the gratuities prohibition relating to DUI schools or programs a second time will have his or her license revoked as provided for in existing Code.

**Authored By:** Sen. Ben Watson (1st)  
**House Committee:** Public Safety & Homeland Security  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SB 416 GBI; establish Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center; provide fusion center for sharing and analysis of homeland security activity information**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 416 establishes the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center within the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. This center will serve as a fusion center maintaining a terrorism analytical component. Development, maintenance, and operations of the center are vested in the director of the GBI. The director is required to report homeland security activity information to the director of emergency management. The center will liaise with the FBI, Joint Terrorism Taskforce, US Department of Homeland Security, and other local, state, and federal intelligence and law enforcement officials. Membership consists of the director, the director of emergency management, the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, the Commissioner of Corrections, the state fire marshal, the Attorney General, the adjutant general and state and local fire service, law enforcement, homeland security, emergency management, corrections, and other appropriate agencies and disciplines as determined by the director of emergency management in consultation with the director.

**Authored By:** Sen. Bill Cowser (46th)  
**House Committee:** Public Safety & Homeland Security  
**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## Regulated Industries Committee

### SB 369 Fireworks; revise the standard of compliance from explosion to ignition; definitions

**Bill Summary:** SB 369 modifies the "MARTA ACT", known as the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965. The bill grants the authority for the city of Atlanta to levy a retail sales tax of up to .50 percent, in .05 percent intervals, in addition to any tax which is currently authorized. In addition, this tax shall not count toward any local sales tax limitation. Before the additional tax is valid, a majority of qualified voters of the city must approve of the referendum. The city may elect to hold a referendum in 2016 or 2017, but before the referendum is held, the authority must submit a preliminary list of new rapid transit projects then submit a final list of rapid transit projects.

All proceeds derived from the additional tax must first be allocated for payment of the cost of rapid transit projects. Any excess proceeds shall be expended solely within and for the benefit of the city of Atlanta. Regarding a metropolitan county special district, the provisions shall only be applicable to special districts in which: a tax is currently being levied and collected pursuant to a local constitutional amendment for the purposes of a metropolitan area system of public transportation, and the laws enacted pursuant to such local constitutional amendment; and eighty percent or more of the geographic area of the special district is located in one or more qualified municipalities.

Upon the approval of a resolution where at least 60 percent of the population of the part of the metropolitan county special district, not within the boundaries of a metropolitan municipality special district, may, for a limited period of time, impose a transportation special purpose local option sales tax, the proceeds of which shall be used only for transportation services. Regarding a metropolitan municipality special district, the provisions shall only be applicable to special districts in which: a tax is currently being levied and collected pursuant to a local constitutional amendment for the purposes of a metropolitan area system of public transportation, and the laws enacted pursuant to such local constitutional amendment; and such municipality contains within its boundaries 15 percent or more of the geographic area of a metropolitan county special district.

Upon the approval of a resolution by majority vote, a metropolitan municipality special district may, for a limited period of time, impose a transportation special purpose local option sales tax, the proceeds of which shall be used only for transportation purposes. Such resolutions shall describe: the specific transportation purposes to be funded; the approximate cost of such transportation projects; the maximum amount of time, not to exceed five years, that the tax will be levied; and including an expenditure of at least 30 percent of the estimated revenue from the tax on projects consistent with the state-wide strategic transportation plan. A tax levied pursuant to this part shall be exclusively administered and collected by the commissioner for the use and benefit of the county and qualified municipalities within the special district imposing the tax. Such taxes shall not apply to: the sale or use of any type of fuel used for off-road heavy-duty equipment, off-road farm or agricultural equipment, or locomotives; the sale or use of jet fuel by a qualifying airline at a qualifying airport; the sale or use of fuel for propulsion of motor vehicles on public highways; the sale or use of energy used in the manufacturing or processing of goods primarily for resale; the sale or use of motor fuel for public mass transit; or the purchase or lease of any motor vehicle.

**Authored By:** Sen. Jeff Mullis (53rd)  
**House Committee:** Regulated Industries

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## Rules Committee

### HR 604 Boy Scout Troop 463 of Sandy Springs, Georgia; 50th anniversary; commend and invite to House

**Bill Summary:** SR 604 is a constitutional amendment that would remove from the state the ability to levy the quarter mill ad valorem tax, which is not currently being levied. It does not affect state ad valorem taxes on public utilities, railroad companies, and airlines on behalf of local governments.

**Authored By:** Rep. Wendell Willard (51st)  
**House Committee:** Rules

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass

## Ways & Means Committee

### **SB 258 Ad Valorem Tax; provide the assessed value of property shall not be increased beyond the initial assessment value**

Bill Summary: SB 258 amends current law whereby a person can lock in a property tax assessment for three years by appealing the tax assessment. This legislation provides that the assessed value following such appeal can be decreased, but not increased. It also provides language to facilitate taxpayers entering into written agreements between taxpayers and tax assessment boards to resolve assessment issues.

Second, this legislation allows an eligible disabled to veteran to qualify for the homestead exemption by meeting either, rather than both, of the standards required by law, which are either: status as a citizen and domiciliary in Georgia honorable discharged and with a service disability, or compensated at the 100 percent disability level as unemployable; or permanent loss of one or both feet, hands, or sight in one or both eyes.

Finally, this legislation provides for tax credits to rural "health care organizations," defined as health organizations located in rural counties, participating in both Medicaid and Medicare, providing health care to primarily indigent patients, and receiving at least 10 percent of their gross net revenues from the treatment of indigent patients.

In the case of a single individual or head of household, the credit shall be for 90 percent of the actual amount expended or \$2,500 per year, whichever is less. In the case of a married couple filing a joint return, the credit shall be for 90 percent of the actual amount expended or \$5,000 per year, whichever is less. In the case of a corporation, the credit shall not exceed 90 percent of the amount expended or 75 percent of the corporation's income tax liability, whichever is less. The tax credit cannot exceed a taxpayer's income tax liability. Credits can carry forward, but cannot be applied retroactively. Aggregate tax credits are capped at \$250 million per year.

To apply for the credit, the donor must notify the Department of Public Health of the total amount of contributions, at which point the department will preapprove the donation within 30 days. The donation must then be made by the donor within 60 days of receiving preapproval from the department.

**Authored By:** Sen. Fran Millar (40th)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### **SB 379 Sales and Use Tax; provide for exemption for fire districts which have elected governing bodies and supported by ad valorem taxes**

Bill Summary: SB 379 exempts fire districts which have elected government bodies and are supported in whole or in part by ad valorem taxes from sales and use taxes.

It also provides a sales and use tax exemption for job training organizations. A qualified organization must be located within the state; exempt from income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; specialize in the retail sale of donated items; provide job training and employment services to individuals with workplace disadvantages or disabilities including reentry citizens and veterans; and use a majority of its revenues for job training and placement programs. The bill contains metrics to evaluate the benefit rendered to the state by the exemption.

SB 379 also changes definitions relating to the ad valorem taxation of property by requiring that the income approach be used in determining the fair market value of a property if sufficiently supplied by the property owner.

Finally, this legislation allows all or part of a property that is subject to conservation use restrictions to be used to host a non-profit rodeo event to which admission is charged in an amount that, on aggregate, does not exceed the cost of hosting the event.

**Authored By:** Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**SR 604 Revenue and Taxation; prohibit the levy of state ad valorem taxes -CA**

Bill Summary: SR 604 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the state from levying a quarter mill ad valorem tax. Such a tax is currently not being levied in Georgia. This legislation does not apply to the ad valorem taxation of public utilities, railroad companies, and airlines on behalf of local governments, administrative functions with respect to local ad valorem taxation, and it is not retroactive.

**Authored By:** Sen. Bill Heath (31st)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Committee Action:** 03-15-2016 Do Pass



## Committee Meeting Schedule

*This meeting schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meeting dates and times are subject to change.*

*To keep up with the latest schedule, please visit [www.house.ga.gov](http://www.house.ga.gov) and click on [Meetings Calendar](#).*

### Wednesday, March 16, 2016

|         |  |               |
|---------|--|---------------|
| 10:00AM | <a href="#">Floor Session (LD 38)</a>              | House Chamber |
| 8:00 AM | <a href="#">AGRICULTURE &amp; CONSUMER AFFAIRS</a> | 403 CAP       |
| 9:00 AM | <a href="#">RULES</a>                              | 341 CAP       |
| 1:00 PM | <a href="#">GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS</a>               | 606 CLOB      |
| 1:00 PM | <a href="#">TRANSPORTATION</a>                     | 406 CLOB      |
| 3:00 PM | <a href="#">SPECIAL RULES- Canceled</a>            | 515 CLOB      |